

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

August 2007

Number 8



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

August 9, 2007 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

ARCEC Annual Picnic 2007



August's Meeting
Paul KC6QLS will be doing a presentation on
WA6BGS Past Events

2007 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

2007 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

2007 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Health & Welfare	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	303-6711
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CO	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	W6CCM	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6CCM	Erich	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
KK6MS	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



Three words to sum up the picnic this past Saturday "friends", "food (lots of it)" and "fun". We had a great turn out and everyone said they had a good time. Thank you to our Social Chair and all who pitched in and came to this event. I hope to see everyone again next year.

At the August meeting, we will have a video presentation of Field Day, and we will try something new – a fun activity that will require everyone's input and participation. Please join us at our August meeting for something new!

The Homebrew Contest is just around the corner in November. So if you haven't already started your entry, you still have plenty of time. The rules can be found on our website and they will be published in a later issue as well. If you have never entered before, don't be shy, give it a try. It's a lot of fun and an opportunity to learn about amateur radio as you challenge yourself with your Home Brew Project. Also, there is a lot of experience in the club, and I'm sure you can find folks at our meetings to bounce ideas and techniques off of. There are three classes, beginning, intermediate and advanced, and you can enter the class you feel the most comfortable with. I hope we will have lots of participation this year.

Also, we need to start thinking about our Christmas Party. Last year we tried something new and went to Hometown Buffet instead of having the usual catered event. This saved the club money and everyone seemed to have a good time. I would like to suggest we do this again this year but am looking for your ideas and input. We will talk about this at the August meeting so that we can begin planning accordingly. Please come to the August meeting to share your thoughts and ideas about our annual Christmas Party.

73, Paul Rios, KC6QLS President

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
12 July 2007



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by club president Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1905hrs.

SECRETARY Mike, N6OPH read the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected. The correction was that Rich, N6NKJ is still a member of ARES. The software for WI6M's talk is called JT-65 software instead of JG-65 software.

TREASURER Mike "Stogie" Panger, KG6JCW gave his report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

EDUCATION chairman Mike, N6OPH reported that the Extra Theory course would begin on the second Tuesday of September. The program presented by WI6M on digital modes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Paul received a response regarding his publication of the Counterpoise. There was an issue brought up about the veracity of the club minutes. There was a discussion concerning the make up of the minutes or method of compilation.

After the break, the business portion of the meeting continued. The silent auction item is a PK-64 Kamtronics TNC. Paul also announced that Linda KI6JUD as the welcoming chairman.

Ed, AI6O won the silent auction.

The club picnic will be held on 4 August at La Mesita Park. The El Cajon club manned the SANDARC booth during the field day.

The deadline for the Counterpoise is the Sunday after the club meeting. SANDARC is planning moving the Del Mar booth to the infield area. SANDARC has formed a committee to look into moving into the infield. SANDARC would receive a report before the end of the year.

VICE PRESIDENT Ed, AI6O reported on the results of field day. The August meeting would be a report on field day activities. The September and October meeting do not have any speakers scheduled at the present. The November meeting is "home brew" night and the December meeting is the election of officers and the Christmas party.

SANDARC REPORT was given by Len, K5WFW. He reported that most of the meeting was devoted to the Del Mar and the planned move to the infield.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT was given by Linda, KI6JUD. She stated that there are 258 paid members. This evening's meeting was attended by 47 members and 5 visitors.

PUBLIC SERVICE Chairman Rich, N6NKJ read his report. The proposal will be written by Rich, N6NKJ and the SANDARC delegate will then present it. Also on 4 July CALFIRE/CDF had the amateur radio community patrol in the annual "red flag" patrols. There were 7 patrols

in East County and 3 in North County. There were at least 20 to 22 amateur radio operators. These came from ARES as well as REACT. There were no emergencies during the patrols. Rich also explained the call out of the red flag participants. There was also discussion within CALFIRE regarding the replacement of some of its equipment. The Kenwood TM-251A has been there for a very long time. It was moved and seconded that the club present to SANDARC a proposal in writing to buy the necessary radio equipment for CALFIRE at the cost of \$2000 or less. After debate, the motion was carried. Mike, N6OPH explained how this would be handled by SANDARC. REACT has invited the ARCEC and other interested amateurs to participate in the Thunder Boat races on Mission Bay on 14-16 September. REACT spends 12 hour days and would appreciate help from the amateur community.

SOCIAL Chairman Anselmo, KD6PRV reported on the field day food events and the club picnic would be 4 August. There being no further business before the general membership the meeting was adjourned at 2108hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael P Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

Next Class will be in September
Extra Class is forming, please call
Gordon, AE6QW at 561-6323

From The Vice President AI6O ED



I was reading recently where some 6,000 licensees disappear from the ranks of amateur radio operators each year through attrition and non-renewal. There are a few things that are happening that, hopefully, will get our hobby growing over the next few years.

For one thing, the ARRL has set a goal of 30,000 new licensees during 2008. With the removal of Morse code and the easing of the Technician theory complexity, we should rightfully see more applicants passing the entry level and coming into the amateur ranks.

Another factor will be the increase in sunspot activity and the increasing activity, inspiration and motivation. There is nothing like band openings and "reliable" world-wide communications under improved atmospheric conditions to provide the incentive to not only obtain a license but also to be active and even upgrade for greater privilege.

All this has to do with the general amateur radio condition. ARCEC can draw some important conclusions from this information. Our club is challenged to continually seek opportunities to not only preserve the community we have but also to grow. Very few clubs are growing, but ARCEC is bucking the trend. We have been innovative and willing to change. It will be the same going forward if we are to stop the hemorrhaging of licensees.

We have more children and teens than ever before—why not a youth net? We have lots of Technicians—why not broaden the "elmering" efforts with a Q & A net? There are other areas of opportunity for us to pursue. Our Board and elected officers can take the lead by persistently sharing their vision at the meetings and on the nets, clearly communicating with all of us, and by having the general membership broadly involved. I would urge our rank and file members and the elected/appointed leaders to actively support the WAMO nets. It's a great place to begin a new wave of growth and retention.

Straight ahead!

Ed Felter, AI6O

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.


Calendar of Events August 2007

Aug.	2:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Aug.	4:	ARCEC Annual Picnic
Aug.	4:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Aug.	4:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Aug.	7:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Aug.	9:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Aug.	16:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Aug.	16:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Aug.	16:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Aug.	16:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Aug.	23:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Aug.	30:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz

Upcoming Event Dates

Sept.	7-9	Convention 2007
Oct.	??:	Fire Station Open House
Nov.	18:	Mother Goose Parade

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5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays August

August	1	KG6IDE	George	Gross
August	1	W6KIP	Kip	Williams
August	4	WA6MHZ	Pat	Bunsold
August	4	KK6NF	Mike	Bailey
August	10	N6SZO	Joe	Corones
August	11	KK6NH	Leslie	Day
August	12	KD6HVZ	Jim	Green
August	14	K6ICT	Ken	Harvey
August	14	KG6JCW	Stogie	Panger
August	17	N6EVE	Evelyn	Miller
August	18	N6WUQ	Jim	Rogers, Sr.
August	19	KD6VKZ	Ed	Ebbert
August	22	N6DVJ	Johnny	Hart
August	23	KC6NXZ	Tom	Caudle
August	23	KF6UOZ	Craig	Matheny
August	24		Richard	Rios
August	24	KE6BZD	Ronald	Mahoney
August	25	KO6AB	Jerry	Miller, Jr.
August	26	KM6YF	Tom	Borg
August	31	KE6TAM	Gerald	Miller, Sr.

Word Search " Members Events "

M I C R O P H O N E D B U L C Q
W E N W D Q D W N R N W G J R W
J Q E S G C I N C I P Q I E N D S
K W D T J N W Q U F R I E N D S
D S X C I U J P J D K N J S I G
G C N A Q N U A K L W X G X O N
K X W T H X G R C I Q C W H N I
J H C N J K H A G W D G Q N K P
Q S J O X S C D C H N J U C K L
Y U G C O N V E N T I O N Q F E
A K U Q W K Q E N A C I R R U H
D S G C N U E X C I T E M E N T
D H A N T E N N A Q D U X D W K
L X S A G K E M E R G E N C Y Q
E F O O D W U Q W D S D G Q L S
I L U J H D G S J X K C J W H G
F I R E S T A T I O N U K X S D

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNA | <input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLUB | <input type="checkbox"/> FUN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTACTS | <input type="checkbox"/> HELPING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONVENTION | <input type="checkbox"/> HURRICANE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY | <input type="checkbox"/> MEETING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCITEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> MICROPHONE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIELD DAY | <input type="checkbox"/> PARADE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIRESTATION | <input type="checkbox"/> PINCIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOAT | <input type="checkbox"/> RADIO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> WILDFIRE |

Brain Thinkers

July 2007

- 8= L. on a S. 8 Legs on a Spider
13= a B.'s D 13 a Baker's Dozen
43= B. in E. C. of N. 43 Beans in Each Cup of Nescafe
----- This Months -----

- 3= R. in a C.
3= B. in L of the R.
64= S. on a C.

Last Months Word Search

D I G I T A L W V U S Y T T R
H B W A U D S E U G W V N U O
P X 9 N W H W P D Z O C P W S
L C O M P U T E R S H W Z E G
W P M O I Z D T O A E S F S K
4 T W A L U S Z D W I P H Z O
5 G O B R R Y T P Q Z D C F Z
Y P W P R G T E W N H C O V E
R W Y V T I A J G M I O W V R
E R S 2 3 2 T X N O R T U O A
P J W O O W T I D D R O M U W
M 4 D U E 4 C G K L U F U P T T
U 5 Q Y E A E U W L I S F T F
J I 6 N 5 B S U 4 A K O U F O
T K N P J L T U I R O P Q L S
P O R T K E L K J G F D S A W
C 2 3 W P K I O Y 4 5 V B T R



A member of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon for just five months, Ken Cohen, KI6HRH, WAMO 1728, has jumped into club activities by volunteering at the San Diego Fair, participating in Field Day and writing an article for the Counterpoise. He always had an interest in amateur radio, but the code presented a big challenge. After retiring, he finally had the time to tackle the exam questions, recently upgraded to general and is now working towards his extra.

Ken, who indicates no one else in his family is a Ham, is originally from Los Angeles, has been married since 1961 and has four children and five grandchildren. He served in the Navy as HM-2 for four years and recalls spending his entire tour of duty passing out pills at the Balboa Naval Hospital. He is presently retired from CAL/OSHA where he was a Safety Engineer and Industrial Hygiene inspector. He inspected workplaces up and down the State of California investigating worker complaints and safety violations. His inspections ranged from factories to hospital, where workers might be involved in un-safe conditions or exposed to hazardous materials.

As a new Ham he quickly learned that it's one thing to pass the exams, but a totally different matter to properly get on the air and be heard. One can surround themselves with lots of expensive equipment and yet not get on the air! He admits there's still a lot to learn.

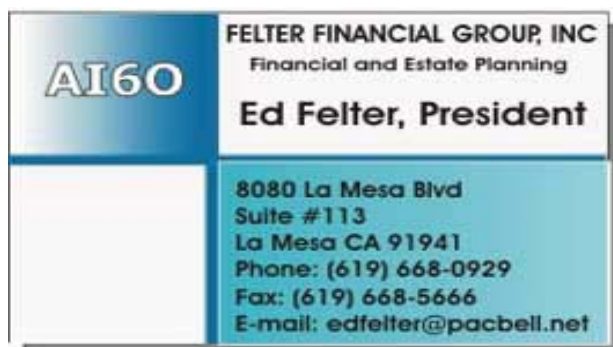
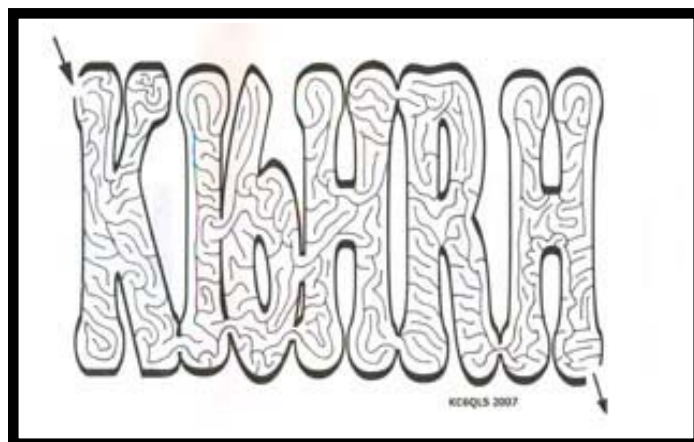
While he hasn't been a Ham long, he doesn't have any pearls of wisdom to pass on other than to "not wait 60 years to retire to become a Ham. Now that the code requirement has been eliminated, just jump in and take the test and have fun".

No longer just a voice on the radio, the Spotlight shines on Ken KI6HRH.

73!

Tassy, KI6FIH

MAZE



Jokes

Answer for last months: A Key to the Zoo!

It was love at first sight. Then I took a second look and saw the price tag!!

Lisie KI6EEK

The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul



Public Relations

The Fire Station Open House is coming up in October, and we are looking for members who would like to join us at a booth to share amateur radio with our community. If you can help out, please contact me and let me know.

The Mother Goose Parade is coming up in November. We will need a trailer this year for our float and so we are putting the word out early. Does anyone have a trailer we can use? If so, please let me know as soon as possible. Also, we have some people signed up for the committee but we can always use more help and ideas. We will have a couple of planning meetings where everyone's ideas and input are welcome and then meet once or twice, depending on everyone's availability, to build the float. Please join us.

Editor's Corner

Last month I received an email indicating that the Counterpoise was deliberately publishing misinformation about an organization. This was, of course, not the case. This issue was addressed at the meeting in July and further clarification has now been received and is addressed in this issue. I would just like to remind everyone that the "Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC).", and this is indicated on the front page of every issue. I would also like to remind everyone that the Secretary's Minutes are what he records at our monthly meeting, and the Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by the General Membership at the following meeting. Any corrections to the Minutes are made by the membership at the following meeting. I sincerely hope this clarifies the fact that there has not been any intentional nor deliberate publishing of misinformation about any organization in the Counterpoise.

Paul, KC6QLS

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

FS #6 Open House

Please Sign up at the next meeting

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"A coward turns away, but a brave man's choice is danger."

- Euripides *Iphigenia in Tauris* / c. 412 b.c / I. 114



Plaza Las Palmas Center

1255 Avocado Ave. Suite 103,

El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 440-4031

WHAT IF?

By: Rich Beisigl N6NKJ

What if you and your family were home and one of your family members had a medical emergency?

What if when you called 9-1-1 and asked the dispatcher to send paramedics to your home only to be told by the dispatcher that no one could respond to help you and your family because all of the EMT'S and the paramedics had said "we have been doing our jobs for a long time, and now it is time for other people to do our jobs." What if your dispatcher informed you that because of the shortage of qualified personnel you would be number 30 on the waiting list of those who require immediate medical aid; however, this could change if someone else called in with a more urgent need than yours. How would you feel? Angry, mad and upset? Of course you would and so would I. But who do you blame? Certainly not the dispatcher. If there are not enough people to fill the vacated positions, then the job of providing emergency help can not be done.

You and I know the above scenario may never happen unless a very large disaster should hit us such as the one on 9/11. Those of you who can still listen to your local police and fire calls on your scanners know that even now there is sometimes a considerable delay in sending help to those who need it, why? Because there is just are not enough police and fire personnel to handle the calls. What is going to happen when the so called "BIG ONE" happens? How long do you think the delays will be then?

This may come as a shock to you, but those of us who volunteer our time and services in the various emergency response groups have noticed a big decline of people who are willing to volunteer for public service and emergency communications. There has always been a shortage of volunteers, but in all my years of being involved public service and emergency communications the problem has become worse. We now have problems in the San Diego County, California area getting enough people to help out with the Special Olympics and other needy organizations. This bothers me and my brothers and sisters in the various emergency communication groups. Why are the amateur radio operators of today, both young and old, so unwilling to volunteer when help is needed?

Have today's amateur radio operators become like so many others who ask "what's in for me?" I sure hope not. Like so many other groups and organizations, there are just a few who it seems always come forward to get the job done. In all the years that I have been involved in emergency communications, I too, had a faithful group of volunteers who never failed to respond when I needed them. But now volunteers are as scarce as some of the rarest minerals known to mankind. So if you have them, hold on to them because they are a rare commodity in today's world.

Remember the scenario I wrote about at the start of this article. Well, ladies and gentlemen, ALL of the various emergency groups have a BIG need for volunteers; volunteers who want to serve their fellow citizens in their time of need, whether it is helping with Special Olympics, Red Flag patrols, or other or other type of public service and emergency communications, YOU ARE NEEDED AND WANTED!!!!

You and I both heard our brother and sister hams say "when the big one hits, I will be there for you." This is great, but how are you going to help if you have not been trained in handling emergency traffic before hand? You need to be trained in proper emergency communications and net control procedures as well as message handling. Believe it or not handling emergency communications is a whole lot different than rag chewing.

Where do most emergency groups need help? In Red Cross shelters, hospitals, public safety groups, and many other areas. All of these agencies need 24 hours, seven days a week coverage until the crisis is over.

So in closing, I urge you, young and old, to get involved with an emergency group in your area as soon as possible. Remember, we have been attacked not once, but twice in the last ten or twelve years, and our government leaders keep saying that we continue to be a target of terrorist.

Are you ready?

Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ

DOWN BELOW IN EL CAJON

LIFE BELOW 50 MHz

FIELD OF DREAMS

Let's imagine that you are sitting in your favorite chair in the radio shack. You are warmed by the glow from your 1.5 KW amplifier. There, next to your desk mic, is the cup of coffee and the little sandwiches that your YL or OM just brought to you (hey — I said we were imagining this!). Life is good, and the QSOs pour in as you point your 40-10 meter logarithmic array towards exotic destinations around the world. Yes, this is what Ham Radio is all about.

OK — take a moment and get that image out of your mind. Now let's imagine another scene. Wildfires have just swept through East County. Commercial power is out, and it could be two weeks to get it restored. The only cell phone coverage is from Mexico and it is intermittent at best. People and animals have been relocated to all parts of San Diego county. Amateur Radio is being called upon to help with critical communications.

Well — let's think about these two situations and answer a couple of questions. Could we all operate in the environment of the first scenario? I know I sure could. It (or something like it) is what we all daydream about while we should be working or listening to what our spouse is saying. But, could we operate under the conditions of the second scenario?

To answer the second question, we have to talk about "Field Operations." Loosely defined, this is the ability to operate at remote locations, with no commercial power, for an extended period. Field operation is not particularly easy. It requires some specialized equipment and training. Most importantly, it also requires practice!

The whole idea of "practice" sounds suspiciously like work. And work, as we all know, is the antithesis of fun. We didn't spend

all those hours with the license study manuals just so we could work, did we?

Not to fear! Field operation can be fun after all. Hams being Hams, we have devised many different activities that simulate field operation and provide necessary practice, while still filling our fun quota.

By far, the biggest and best known of these activities is Field Day. This event, sponsored by the ARRL, brings groups of Hams together to practice field operations. In addition, we all compete against other groups to see how many contacts we can make. There is also great food, camaraderie, and the chance to play with lots of different rigs, antennas and operating modes. Think of "radio camp" for adults.

If you have never participated in a Field Day event, you are missing a unique and interesting experience. Whether you operate at Field Day for a few hours or for all 24 hours, you will have a great time and will completely forget that you are actually receiving training in emergency preparedness.

There are other events that you, as an individual can participate in. There are many contests and events held throughout the year that either require that you operate remotely, or give you a huge point advantage if you do. A couple of these that come to mind are those hosted by the Adventure Radio Society and the QRP Amateur Radio Club International. There are others as well, that you can find with a little Google searching.

Participating as an individual is fun as well, but it also serves a greater purpose. You will find, as I did, that as you start to get involved with field operations and remote contesting, you soon have a station that is capable of operating for extended periods of time without commercial power. This station will probably not supplant the Titanic-Amp and Beam Array of your dreams, but you will definitely sleep better knowing that if something

DOWN BELOW IN EL CAJON

LIFE BELOW 50 MHz

hits the fan, you will still be on the air.

What this emergency station looks like depends on your interests, your budget, and your technical skills. You can buy rigs or build them. You can go with solar power or generators, and you can go mobile or stationary:

RIGS: There are many commercial rigs available that can be used for field operations. The FT-817 and FT-857 come to mind, as does the IC-703 and IC 7000. You can also build your own. Elecraft has the K1 and K2, and there are other kits available from various clubs and suppliers. Keep in mind that the more power you transmit, the more electricity you need! That is why many field operations limit power output to QRP levels.

POWER: Gel cells seem to be the most common power for individual field operations. Solar panels are available at a very modest cost that can run QRP radios all day long and charge batteries for night-time use. For larger stations or for groups, generators are most often used. Also, don't forget that you have a large rechargeable battery sitting in the rust-bucket you drive to work each day.

ANTENNAS: These can range from a random wire thrown up into a tree to commercial antennas for portable use, such as the "buddipole." A recent QST article showed how to build your own buddipole-like system for about \$60. I use a collapsable fiberglass pole that extends from 4 feet to almost 30 feet. It is available on eBay for about \$60. It allows me to run a vertical or to string up a quick and effective inverted-V dipole.

LOCATION: Maybe you plan to handle emergency communications from your home QTH, but what if you can't? Can your station fit into your car or truck? Do you have the chair/table/awning you need to set up at some remote location? Don't overlook your personal comfort when making your plans.

So, I hope that you still have pleasant dreams of new rigs and exotic DX, and that you don't suffer nightmares of wildfires and emergency operation. But I also hope that will sleep well at night knowing that you are prepared for whatever may come. Many of us, myself included, lived through the wildfire as described at the beginning of this article.

Back then, in 2003, I did not have anything but a handy-talky that could operate in an emergency. Now, I have a small, go-anywhere station that is capable of operating for long periods on self-generated power. The trip from then to now has been filled with learning and a tremendous amount of fun. I wish the same for you.

73,

John
WA6L



Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello again,

In this month's article, I want to try and clear up some conflicting information regarding my status with CAL FIRE.

Roxanne Provaznik, the VIP Coordinator for CAL FIRE, has appointed me as the Volunteer Coordinator for the VIP Red Flag Patrol Program. I will be reporting directly to Roxanne and not to any other organization(s) in my role as Volunteer Coordinator. She will tell me how many volunteers she needs for whatever activities she has going on, and then I will get volunteers to help out. When I took on this job, Roxanne and I agreed that we needed to reach out to all amateurs and groups to help us in the VIP Red Flag Patrols, and that is what we are doing in order to make sure we have the resources to staff the VIP Red Flag Program in case of any emergency that might arise.

To let you all know, CAL Fire Volunteer requirements are that you must be 18 or over; have a valid amateur radio license and a valid drivers license; have Wild Land Fire Safety Training or accompany someone who has the training; attend Red Flag Patrol Orientation; bring a 2 meter radio 25 – 45 watts or more to the patrols for your use; and the dress code is no shorts or open toed shoes.

As I become aware of upcoming events, they will be published here in my column and anyone who would like to participate can call me directly to sign up. If you need training, call and talk to me about that so I can get you set up. Please be assured that the information here in my column has been previously cleared with Roxanne and CAL FIRE for accuracy. If you have any questions at all about volunteering for upcoming events, please contact me as that is what I am here for.

Speaking of upcoming events, our friends in REACT have asked for help with the boat races on Mission Bay which will start on September 14,

2007 and continue until September 16, 2007. More information can be found at these two websites: www.thunderboats.net or www.hydroprop.com or you can contact me directly to sign up.

Lastly, our good friend Eric Crosser, N6SUB is doing much better now and please continue to keep him in your prayers.

As always, please remember our brave men and women in our armed forces. When you see someone in their uniform, please shake their hand and tell them how much you appreciate their service to our country. GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

Rich, N6NKJ

Welcome New Members

New Members

Tim Hoy K6CA WAMO # 1742

Thank you to all members who have renewed. Please check the mailing label on your Counterpoise. If your membership has expired, please take a moment to complete and return the Renewal Application located within this Counterpoise.

73 Ann, KC6TBG



PICNIC Photos



Al KA6RLX is here!

PICNIC Photos



Dan N6ERD, Rich NJ6F
and Carl KI6FIF



Michael AE6CQ & Will KI6DQJ



Steve KO4QT and Linda KI6JUD



Forrest KS6L



Rich NJ6F and Floyd AF6BC

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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2006? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



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